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Spanish title east was made complete by the destruction of La Salle's fort, the establishment of the post on the Adeas, existing in 1718, and by the establishment of the town of Nacogdoches in 1732. A French title to the territory to the Rio Grande never existed—nor is there a single fact to sustain it—setting aside any notice of the aggression intended by the settlement on the Mississippi, and the admissions respecting the Spaniards made by La Salle himself. From a letter of La Harpe, in 1719, and an order of Bienville, the governor of New Orleans, in 1721, it appears to have been thought that the landing of La Salle in Matagorda Bay gave to France a title to some portion of Texas (Correspondence between Onis and Adams, p. 128); but the French government did not sustain this opinion, and Spain continued in the undisturbed occupation of it for upwards of a century after La Salle's death and until the establishment of the independence of Mexico.

In 1802, France, which had ceded Louisiana to Spain in 1763, recovered possession of the country, and the next year it was agreed to be sold by Buonaparte, then First Consul, for eleven millions of dollars to the United States. When the purchase was proposed, Mr. Jefferson certainly expected part of the boundary of Louisiana to be "the high lands on the western side of the Mississippi, inclosing all its waters—the Missouri of course—and terminating in a line drawn from the north-western point of the Lake of the Woods to the nearest source of the Mississippi as lately settled between Great Britain and the United States" (Jefferson's Correspondence; Aug. 12, 1803, vol. iii. p. 519). The purchase in its terms included "All lands on the east side of the Mississippi river, not then belonging to the United States, as far as the great chain of mountains which divide the waters running into the Pacific and those falling into the Atlantic Ocean, and from the said chain of mountains to the Pacific Ocean between the territory of Great Britain on the one side and of Spain on the other" (History of the Federal Government; Boston, 1840, p. 130). This extension of the limits of Louisiana over the mountains, was, after much resistance, allowed by Spain, in consequence of the use of very inaccurate and unauthentic documents and maps, in the treaty made between it and the United States in 1819, which fixed the Sabine River as part of the western boundary of the United States, and declared the extreme limit of the N. of Mexico to be a line running N. from the source of the Arkansas to the 42nd parallel, and thence to the Pacific. (See Congressional Papers, 27th Congress, 1842, containing the Survey of the River Sabine, &c.) The effect of thus extending this line to the Oregon territory is well known.

The MS. to which I have alluded, and from which my citations are made, I propose to print at a future day. T. F.

II.—*Notes on the Coast Region of the Texan Territory: taken during a Visit in 1842.* By WM. BOLLAERT.*

General Remarks.—Three great natural divisions are generally recognised in the geographical formation of Texas—the level, undulating, and mountainous. To this is sometimes added "the

* Mr. Bollaert's paper was accompanied by the following charts and sketches from surveys by American (U. S.) officers, which are preserved in the Society's archives, but which it was deemed unnecessary to have engraved, as Mr. Arrowsmith's map of Texas, published in April, 1841, will enable every reader to follow Mr. Bollaert in his excursions:—

1. Sketch of the Line of Coast on the Gulf of Mexico, from the mouth of the Rio Grande del Norte le Balire, on the S.E. pass of the Mississippi, laid down according to the observations of Commodore Moore and Captain Baylen.

2. Sketch Plan of Galveston Island.

3. Chart of the Harbour of St. Luis, surveyed by Captain Hinton.

4. Chart of the mouth of the Sabine, by Major Grahame, Captain Pellam, and Lieutenant Lee.

first and smallest division, consisting of the low and level tract of land contiguous to the sea," in the N.E. portion of the republic.

The mountainous region appears to consist of limestone; the undulating, of rock-sand and alluvial deposits; and the low or level lands towards the coast, of alluvial matters entirely, with a sandy sea-shore.

The long and narrow islets forming the coast appear to have been bars of sand and alluvial matters, which have gradually risen above the level of the sea and kept in that position by the S.E. currents and banking up nature of the action of the tides, aided by the deposition of oyster and other shells, drift-wood, and seaweed, with the pretty constant succession of S.E. winds banking up the sand and preventing the alluvial depositions brought down by the rivers, as now through the marine lagoons, from escaping entirely into the gulf.

According to observations, the coast of Texas, that is, its islets and bars, are encroaching upon the sea, more particularly towards the delta of the Mississippi: thus in time we shall have, what Humboldt regrets, when speaking of the sands, &c., as "miserably contracting the bed of the Mexican gulf;" but to compensate for this we shall have beautiful prairies offering an abode for animals and then for man.

The "S.E. trade winds," with some variation, come as far as Cape St. Antonio (Cuba), excepting in the winter months, when the "norte" becomes the characteristic wind, blowing a gale occasionally, but not of long duration.

For the greater part of the year a continuance of S.E. winds come to the shores of Texas with such variation as is consequent upon local obstructions; and the effect produced on the oceanic currents is, that the gulf stream acts indirectly, though not directly, on the Texan shores.

I have it in contemplation, when opportunities offer, to examine minutely into this subject, and investigate the exact period and duration of winds on the coast, the velocity of the Texan rivers, the effect of tides, the velocity of the currents over the bars at different periods of the year, temperature of the ocean at various depths, &c. &c.

The gulf stream commences in the equatorial regions, passes the West Indies, round through the Gulf of Mexico and Florida, into the Atlantic, up to Newfoundland, and from thence across to the European shores. Independently of this, there are other streams or currents formed by local circumstances—some of these affecting the coast of Texas. It is a generally received opinion that a continuance of wind from any direction forms currents at sea, in the direction such wind is blowing. As bearing upon this view I may mention a fact connected with the gulf stream.

The following is the copy of a paper found in a bottle which was picked up on the gulf shore, 12 miles to the southward and westward of the mouth of Caney Creek, on the 25th of May last, having been overboard thirteen months and one day:—"24th of April, 1841, latitude $10^{\circ} 43' N.$, longitude $43^{\circ} 53' W.$, General Palmer Transport, with three companies of the 3rd W. I. regiment on board, from Sierra Leone, bound for Jamaica. All well; 18 days out; 1929 miles from Jamaica this day. This bottle is thrown over to try the currents. Whoever may find it will be so kind as to publish the same in the newspapers. Long live the Queen."

The distance travelled was 3229 miles = 248 miles per month, or a little better than 8 miles per day—that is assuming the bottle to have come a straight course—but it is enough to show that the currents set westerly towards the coast of Texas.

The gulf stream properly so called, it is said, does not come upon the coast of Texas; but as the winds during the greater part of the year are from S. and E., producing currents N. and W., it is probable that it was these currents brought the bottle in question to the Texan shores.

The currents in-shore will vary a little as the wind may happen to veer, and this variation will be comparatively rapid, owing to the shallowness of the water.

I may state here, that in October,* 1837, a strong gale from E.N.E. to E.S.E. filled the bays or marine lagoons along the coast. The wind chopped round to N. and W., blew violently from that quarter, and as the passes or outlets over the bars were of inconsiderable dimensions, the inland parts of the coast or islets were overflowed with the waters from the bays; and at Galveston island to the depth of 4 to 5 feet. There is some difference of opinion relative to the average height of Galveston island above the sea, but it is considered to be about 10 feet, and some of the sand hills along the coast may be 20 feet.†

The rains form on the low alluvial lands on the coast, and on the islets which festoon the whole sea-board, large ponds or fluvial lagoons, some of considerable extent; and these lagoons become the abode of the cayman or alligator, and generate immense numbers of mosquitoes. When this part of the country becomes settled, canals or drains will be cut which will remove sundry other inconveniences caused by these marshy lagoons.

Maps of the Country and Charts of the Coast.—By examining

* 4th and 5th of October, for several days before, the weather was thick and heavy, the tides were high, and ebbcd less than they rose.

† I am informed by a gentleman who has traversed every part of the island, that 8 feet is about the average, and 14 feet the sand-hills, and that a portion of the island is below high-water mark; spring tides $3\frac{1}{4}$ feet.

the maps and charts of Texas it will be seen that, before the true latitude and longitude of Galveston was given a short time since, to be in $29^{\circ} 16' 37''$ N., $94^{\circ} 49' 41''$ W., there was not one point correctly laid down. Even from the mouths of the Mississippi to Sabine river was very incorrect, and much of that line still remains so.

The best coast line of Texas was that given by the map of the Land-office in 1839, which placed the mouth of the Rio Grande in $97^{\circ} 30'$, but by recent observations made by Commodore Moore, it is placed in $97^{\circ} 11'$. A MS. chart has just fallen into my hands by a Captain B., who places the Rio Grande in $96^{\circ} 51'$, and I believe Captain B.'s chart is about to be published by Blunt, of New York; and I am also informed that a copy of it was sent to Norie in London. All this is somewhat contradictory; but for the present I am inclined to give the preference to Commodore Moore's observations, a copy of which I sent to the Society some time since. I am now constructing a chart upon the faith of Commodore Moore's observations and the observations of others. Captain B. is considered a good navigator and pilot, and I shall remit to you shortly his observations, &c., from the mouths of the Mississippi along and off shore to Galveston, when it will be seen that he has laid down large shoals, sand-banks, &c., and lines of soundings. Thus it appears to me that no map of Texas can be looked upon as correct until the coast line is accurately laid down.

Commodore Moore has worked up good surveys of Galveston and Matagorda bays, which I will send as soon as I get them. I may observe here that every four or five years the shoals and passes over the bars vary considerably; such as at "Passo Caballo," the principal entrance to Matagorda bay. But the pilots all along the coast are intelligent on these points, and by attention to the "lead" on approaching the coast (which is not a stormy one), no accidents ought to occur. If in winter a vessel is caught by a "norther," this will blow her off shore. And during the greater part of the year moderate S.E. winds prevail, but a sharp look-out ought to be kept for currents (which will be in the direction of the prevailing wind), and should care not be taken, a vessel becalmed near the land might drift on shore; but ere this could take place a vessel could come to anchor at any point all along the coast.

The sea-board forms a pretty straight and even line, owing to the equable action of the tides; but is on the opposite side made up of bayous or irregularities; and on the island are several fluvial lagoons. Leaving the town of Galveston, and along the shore some 15 miles, the "Three trees" are arrived at, which forms a good landmark. What is known as the "Three trees"

is composed of a clump of some twenty trees, then a small grove, and lastly three trees. Galveston island is covered with pasturage all the year round, affording food for cattle and deer.*

First Voyage along the Coast Westward in March, 1842.—The coast is uninteresting, being so low and in-shore, particularly in the vicinity of the bars; breakers may be generally observed; care must be taken in approaching these bars; and, as I have before mentioned, if becalmed, to take notice of the in-draught current; there have been vessels lost for want of this precaution. Went through the Aransas pass, 8 to 9 feet water, into bay of same name. Got to Live-oak point. The bay is full of islets, sand-banks, and shoals; can only be navigated by small craft or steamers drawing but a few feet water, except in certain channels where the water is deeper.

About Live-oak point there is considerable depth of water; the land about here is somewhat sandy, but grows Indian corn, &c., and the water from the wells is good. Here is some live oak timber. Fish is in abundance, and plenty of pasturage for cattle.

Sailed up to Copano, and came to anchor at Black point, near to which the River Aransas comes into the bay. About here the land is loamy and coast higher. The pasturages are very good, being of musquit grass, and forests of musquit timber (a species of the acacia). The southern breeze sweeping over the prairies and through the musquit trees (being then in flower), fills the air with sweet-smelling perfume. Here is abundance of deer, rabbits, birds of all sorts, fine fish in large quantities, as well as oysters, crabs, &c. I could hardly help imagining when standing on this primeval land—not a dwelling as yet to be seen—that the shores of these bays would in time be crowded with habitations; that these waters would afford the easy means of conveyance for the products of these countries to other lands, and in return import from other realms. All was now so still and in such quietude, all that was heard was the rustling of the breeze through the trees, or the butterfly flapping its wings.

I returned to Live-oak point and accompanied a party to Corpus Christi in a small sailing-boat. Running down Corpus Christi bay, to the right is seen M'Gloin's bluffs, these being comparatively high land and good grazing grounds.

The landing at Corpus Christi (Messrs. Kinney's and Aubrey's *Rancho*) is not commodious, when it blows fresh on shore. A trifling trade has been carrying on here with the Mexicans from

* Some two years since boring for water on the Artesian principle was commenced, but no water was got. The stratum first gone through was sand—then sand and loam: some 60 feet was attained. The water from wells on the island a few feet deep only, is slightly brackish. Rain water caught in large vats is used for drinking.

Matamoras on the Rio Grande, but the unsettled state of affairs between the two countries has almost put a stop to business. Ordinary rise of tides here said to be 18 inches. The land here is high; there are a few trees, good pasturages, and moderately good lands for Indian corn, &c.

At Corpus Christi inlet there are two passes or channels: the northern one is that which is used; it is short and narrow, having 4 to 5 feet water.

There is a large mud-flat inside the Aransas pass. It is said that at very little expense and no difficulty, the channel through it might be widened and the Corpus Christi bay would be navigable for vessels of considerable burthen; and this will doubtless be done when commercial affairs are of sufficient importance in this direction.

Oyster-beds are in abundance at and in the vicinity of Live-oak point; large quantities of dead oyster and other shells line the shores and contribute to the formation of land; their calcareous nature assists in strengthening and giving body to the new land so rapidly coming into existence all along these coasts. I visited La Mar, which is opposite to Live-oak point; the lands looked good, with plenty live and post oak timbers, and in the prairies numberless pretty wild flowers. I should think the lands about here are good for grazing.

After touching at the small harbour of St. Luis I returned to Galveston. I may mention here that I availed myself of a passage on board of an armed steamer on this trip. The object of her cruise was to intercept some Mexican transports reported off the Texan coast, to reinforce a division of the Mexican army who had a short time previously crossed the Rio Grande, entering St. Antonio de Bejar.

2nd Voyage along the Coast, Westward—April.—Left Galveston with fine S.E. breezes. Southerly gales soon came on, with heavy cloudy weather. Wind chopped round to N., with lightning and thunder, and a considerable diminution in the temperature of the air. Winds variable, but inclining towards the W. On 17th, strong breezes from N. and N.W.; 7 A.M. 54° of air, of water 67°. These northerly winds are very late this season, but the cool air they bring braces and invigorates the system.

Passo Caballo.—The repetition of “northers,” or more properly the rush of waters caused by them, have washed away the western banks of the pass to the extent of 400 yards within the last three or four years.

By referring to Wallick’s survey, p. 38, vol. i., Kennedy’s Texas, what is placed as “N. breakers” extends E. and E.N.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile more than laid down. The “False channel” and the

one next to it, called "Swash channel" and "Pelican Island channel," are all diminishing. The passage, or bayou, N. of the pilot houses, is filled up as well as others. I do not think it necessary to give sailing directions here, for good pilots are always in attendance: but I may remark that the long peninsula which terminates at Decrow's point, and forming a barrier against the sea, protecting Matagorda bay, is marked in an old Spanish map as a *chain of islands*.

Inside Decrow's point there is deep water; there is the same over to Tres Palacios. At this last place the iron brig "Iron-sides," 260 tons, took in a full cargo of cotton this season.

In running up for the town of Matagorda even small craft must lay a considerable way off and load from lighters.

The River Colorado (at the mouth of which are Selkirk's islands) brings down large quantities of alluvial matters, which appear to be forming islets and shoals in a line across to the peninsula, comprising Dog island. But the serious obstruction to the navigation of the Colorado is "The Raft." It consists of detached masses of timber with portions of the river intervening; the different portions of the raft, if united, would form about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, some of which is floating and other parts sunken and difficult of removal. In ascending the main channel of the river from the landing at Matagorda, very little difficulty from "snags" or other impediments is found before reaching the first raft in the middle branch, a distance of $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles. Thence $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the head of the West branch the obstructions are not of any magnitude. Near this the channel is closed by one raft of about 200 yards in length, and is nearly clear of "snags" for a further distance of 2 miles. The expense of clearing this raft is estimated at about 30,000 dollars. The citizens of Matagorda and settlers on the Colorado are making arrangements to commence operations.

The town of Matagorda is pleasantly situated on a long bluff. It is healthy; the prairies round about have good pasturages, the shores of the bay are skirted with groves, the banks of the Colorado well timbered, and the lands for the growth of cotton are very highly spoken of. Game, fish, turtle, &c., in abundance.

On the 25th a very heavy thunder-storm came on from N.N.E. with hail and rain, cooling the air very considerably. I traversed the prairies towards Caney creek; they were covered with pasturages and flowers. Passed Little Boggy (a trifling stream), and thence to Big Boggy creek, which is slightly wooded: here hung on the trees the "Spanish moss" (*Tillandsia usneoides*) in great abundance. It gives a melancholy appearance to the woods, and is said to be hurtful to the trees. This moss is used in lieu of horsehair for mattresses, &c. It is prepared by keeping it steeped in water for some time, when it loses its vegetable juices, becomes

black and rigid and fit for use : it sells for about 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb. Game is abundant all over the country. Wolves are numerous, and occasionally a panther and leopard cat is seen. In the creeks some alligators. Snakes of all sorts are to be met with, even to the copper-head moccassin and rattle-snake. Much has been said relative to antidotes for the bite of these venomous reptiles. There appears to be a respectably attested instance of death caused in three hours in the person of a Mr. Talbot in the eastern country, who had one of his fingers bitten. No antidote is here mentioned. In travelling through this country "snake stories" and their antidotes are very numerous. Some recommend internal and external applications of tobacco-juice, others gun-powder and vinegar ; even "*brandy and salt*" has been mentioned : and the last new "notion" is, that some old hunter has discovered a "weed" that grows in great abundance wherever venomous snakes abound, the application of this said "weed" internally and externally is the "sovereign remedy!"

The wild indigo-plant is said to grow in Texas, but as yet I have not seen any indigo prepared from it ; the cactus thrives here, but as yet no cochineal is collected. With regard to objects of natural history, a Mr. Smith has been collecting for some time, principally for the Earl of Derby. A Dr. Weideman has been attending to botany in the vicinity of St. Antonio de Bejar ; and I believe that a Mr. Drummond has returned to Europe with a considerable Texan Flora.

I visited several cotton plantations during this trip, particularly those on Caney creek ; the lands here are very fine for cotton, sugar, tobacco, and other tropical plants ; the maize or Indian corn grows most luxuriantly.

During the summer months intermittent fevers are not uncommon in the "bottoms" of the rivers or creeks ; but the planters and their families may avoid this fever by living on the edge of the prairies that skirt these "bottoms."

On this trip I fell in with some Caranchuhuas Indians (or Koronks). They were formerly a powerful tribe, but have become dispersed and dwindled away since the white man came into their lands. There have been several battles between them and the intruders. The first of any importance was that known by the name of the "battle of the Three Trees" in 1819, on Galveston island, between these Indians and Lafitte, the pirate of the gulf. The Koronks brought 300 warriors into the field, Lafitte 200 followers. The Indians lost 100 warriors ; Lafitte had eight or ten killed and thirty or forty wounded. There was another sanguinary battle between them and the first settlers at Matagorda about 1827. The greater number of Koronks rove about Corpus Christi and adjacent bays. A few wander about Matagorda. They are a

good-looking race, rather indolent, employ themselves in fishing and hunting: they live in tents made of skins; and are good shots with bow and arrow. To preserve themselves from the bite of the mosquito they anoint themselves with an unctuous substance prepared by themselves.

The following statement was made by Isowacany, the principal chief of the Comanche nation, when on a visit to St. Antonio some few years since. The Comanches claim to be lineal descendants of the subjects of Montezuma II. The chief said that when Cortez landed in Mexico, he found the country torn to pieces by internal factions, and was enabled, by employing the disaffected chiefs, to raise a force to seize upon the capital. Those chiefs believed, if they could destroy the power of Montezuma, they could easily dispatch the Spaniards, and have the control of the country in their own hands. But too late they ascertained they had introduced a harder master, and that unconditional servitude was all they had to expect. Many bent the neck to the conqueror: but some preferred exile to servitude, and set out on a pilgrimage to the north, in hopes to find a land where they could enjoy their ancient institutions in peace. They travelled for many weeks, and at last came to the Great River of the North (Rio Grande), where they encamped, and sent out twenty chosen men to examine the adjacent country. They crossed the Great River, and ascended one of the highest peaks, which overlooked the adjoining plain. The prairie was covered with buffaloes, deer, and antelopes; and they thought they had reached "*the happy hunting-ground*," and the word *Texas! Texas! Texas!* burst from every tongue. It was decided that this country should be their future home, and go by the name apparently furnished by the "Great Spirit." *Texas* is the Comanche name for the residence of happy spirits in the next world. Thus the Spaniards from *Texas* formed *Texas*, which means the "*happy hunting-ground*," or the *Elysium* of the Comanches.

The following satirical couplet gives the etymology of the name, as at present received in the Western States of the Union:—

"When every other land rejects us,
Here is a land which freely *takes us* (*Texas*)."

May 20th. Journey from Galveston to Matagorda.—About fifteen miles down the island the "Three Trees" are passed, and fifteen miles further on the S.W. end of the island is attained. The road is along the sea-shore, which is strewn with drift wood, here and there lumps of asphaltum and small rounded masses of white pumice-stone. At the S.W. end there is a ferry that communicates with the island of St. Luis. Before the town of St. Luis there is deep water, the bar is good and port easy of entrance.

From St. Luis to Velasco is a distance of 12 miles; this town

is on the river Brazos ; on the opposite side is the town of Quintana. Continuing along the coast for 9 miles came to river St. Bernard ; here the bar is bad, and no great width of river. About here for the first time may be seen a small pebble or so and a little alluvial soil on the banks of the river. To this spot from Galveston and further on all is sand, very few shells, large quantities of drift-wood (collecting for ages) forming a barrier to the sand blown up by the S.E. winds from the shallow shores, which sands extending gives height to the coast, and moreover encroaches upon the gulf of Mexico—this is assisted by marine shells, sea-weed, and such plants as first grow on sea-shores. At a short distance from the beach the land gives pretty good pasturage, but somewhat tough ; but further inland the grazing for cattle is good. When the alluvial deposits are in any quantity the pasturages of all kinds are in abundance—forming the prairies ; and along the margins of rivers and creeks the timbered lands appear. Between the rivers, or from one stream to another, where the land may be low, so that moisture from the rains can lodge, timbers likewise are in abundance.

From the San Bernard to Caney creek (passing Cedar lake) is 8 miles. Caney creek is forded through the breakers off its mouth. I may observe here that, excepting the large Texan rivers, the others may be easily forded during the greater part of the year, but during the wet season they are deep and run rapidly.

From Caney creek to the town of Matagorda (from *mata* a bush, and *gorda* thick or stout) by the prairie is about twenty-five miles (See Observations between Matagorda and Caney, p.).

I returned to Galveston from Matagorda by the upper part of Caney creek (passing cotton plantations), from which to Cowan's ferry on the San Bernard is 10 miles. Three or four more brought us to the town of Brazoria. To this place the road is through woodlands, shading the traveller from the hot sun's rays. The Brazos river at Brazoria is deep, and the banks are steep. At a short distance from the banks of the river 20 feet was dug before water was obtained, and in excavating, impressions of fish found in the strata. From Brazoria to the mouth of the Brazos there are many cotton plantations, in the well-timbered lands, and on their margins in the prairies, and these prairies go down to the sea-coast.

Voyage from Galveston to the Mississippi. June.—From Galveston to the Sabine river is a low coast with a few houses and occasional clumps of trees. Here is the divisional line, on the W. bank of the river, between Texas and the United States. The formation of the coast from the Sabine to the Mississippi will be better

seen by reference to the new chart I am preparing than any description I can at present give.

I may state that from the Sabine to Ship or Last island, Barrataria Bay (the first rendezvous of Lafitte the pirate) and on to the Mississippi the shores are lower than the Texan, composed of mud and sand islets, covered with drift-wood. The shores are full of shoals rapidly increasing, which will in time become islets festooning the coast, and ultimately firm land. Came to anchor with lighthouse of the S.W. pass of the Mississippi 2 miles to the N.E., within two or three hundred yards of the shore, and in 2 *fathoms fresh water*. Fresh water extends much farther off the land. The shores of the innumerable islets are slippery and muddy; no rock, stone, nor even a pebble to be seen. When this alluvion becomes dry, it indurates slightly: it is of a light brownish colour. On it reposes large quantities of drift-wood of all dimensions from the fragile branch to trunks of trees of giant growth. The decomposition of this drift-wood is very rapid under the blistering summer sun of these regions and copious rains, forming in time soil for the reception of vegetation and abode of man. The *Teredo navalis* is actively at work amongst the drift-wood, reducing speedily into very friable stuff immense trees, breaking by the mere impression of the foot. The plants are few, with the exception of the samphire, which is in great abundance, luxuriating in its almost solitary position. A tough grass makes its appearance, and a very few other plants. Alligators and sharks revel in these waters, and the myriads of mosquitoes of several species (the *Galley-nippers* to wit) anything but pleasant. Sea-birds did not appear at this time of the year in any number; the sea and river are filled with fish.

Entered the S.W. pass and cruized round to the Balize. This spot is the residence of the pilots, who have formed themselves into an association. The Balize is an eternal swamp, indeed ere a residence can be erected, earthy matter must be brought from some other locality. The only hunting is that of alligators. Visiting the New World by the mouths of the Mississippi gives one but a melancholy idea of these vast countries; yet there is one thing that forcibly strikes the traveller—the mighty Father of Rivers.

Some 35 miles up this majestic stream Fort Jackson is seen on the left; it is of large dimensions, built of brick in a swamp, and in no very picturesque situation; it is out of repair: during the last excitement resulting from Canadian affairs between the United States and England some repairs were commenced, but soon discontinued. On the other side of the river stood the Spanish Fort of San Felipe.

Snags or points of trees sticking upright or slanting in the river

annoy vessels very much. Sailing vessels are towed up by "steam-tugs." The crews, having nothing to do, amuse themselves shooting alligators. The shores of the river are low, covered with rushes and cane-brakes, and lined with drift-wood, which with the immense quantity of earthy matter brought down forms new lands rapidly, particularly at the mouths of the river.

I went up the Mississippi on board of a steam-tug. We had two large vessels lashed one on either side, their cargoes being of ice from Boston. Some fifty vessels of ice, averaging 300 tons each, arrive at the "Crescent City" annually, selling on an average at two cents per lb.; this will give about 672,000 dollars. The ice may cost less than one cent in Boston, and people concerned in this trade call it a good or bad "harvest" of ice. I remained a short time in New Orleans, and then returned to Galveston. The author of 'Cyril Thornton,' Captain Hamilton, when speaking, in his 'Men and Manners in America,' of the Mississippi and its delta, amongst other remarks observes:—"It would be difficult to convey an idea by words of the effects which this most dismal scene produces on the mind, heart, and imagination of the spectator. It seems as if the process of creation was incomplete, and the earth yet undivided from the waters, for he beholds only an indeterminate mass which admits of being absolutely assigned to neither element. He feels that he has forsaken the regions of the habitable. Above, beneath, around there is nothing to excite his sympathies, and probably for the first time in his life he becomes conscious of the full sublimity of desolation." For this trip I am indebted to some friends who kindly offered me a passage with them in the Texan privateer Frolic of sixteen tons, and I may state that we took a Mexican vessel of 100 tons some 25 miles off the Mississippi.

Journey to the Eastern Country. June.—According to the ordinary charts it would appear that the course to Houston was to the N. of Pelican island; but the one generally pursued is to the S. of that island, avoiding certain shoals, from 8 to 12 feet water, up to Red Fish Bar. This bar is part of a chain of islets extending from Edward's Point to Porter Point. From Galveston to Red Fish Bar about 18 miles. To Cloffer's Bar 18 miles, with $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet water over its bar, which after crossing, the mouth of Buffalo Bayou is entered, and on its shores deposits of shell are to be seen. There is but little current down the bayou, which is very deep and winding. The shores or "bottom" for some distance inland are thickly wooded with pine in a sandy soil; there are other trees, but the stately magnolia with its large white and powerfully odorous flower may be distinguished. The San Jacinto falls into the bayou; at its mouth is situated Lynchburg.

Buffalo Bayou does not run far inland, but is wooded up to its

head; the lands are somewhat sandy, with loam occasionally. Houston, for the time being, is the seat of government; General Houston, the president, considering it more central for the settled districts than Austin. Houston is well adapted for trade, but I do not think it is quite so healthy as Galveston, owing to its vicinity to the timbered lands and sluggish bayou: there is no want of fresh breezes, but they are not so invigorating as those directly from the sea.

In this vicinity, and indeed in nearly all the low lands and bottoms of rivers, I do not think that the white man can be employed in the growing and picking of cotton, and thus it is to the negro we must look for this sort of labour. Farms or grazing establishments may be set on foot here by the European emigrant; but Eastern and Western Texas are the lands for the foreign settler—either for stock-raising or farming—thus leaving the low coast-lands to the cotton-planters and their negroes.

June 9th.—I travelled some 30 miles along the road from Houston to Brazoria, to the plantation of Colonel Austin at Oyster Creek. Cotton and corn looked well, although it was very dry weather. The prairies are here of a sandy nature, almost parched up, and at this moment the creeks have no water in them. The Bayou ought to be marked on Arrowsmith's map *Flues*. Deer was plentiful, bounding about the prairie, and often seen mixed with the horses and cattle. Travelling during the day is warm, but the roads or tracks are good, so that a covered gig may be used.

At Houston I saw a rich specimen of gold ore from the river Llamas, above the town of Austin—particles of the precious metal embedded in quartz. A company is about to commence operations. I may mention here that some rich silver ore has been discovered on the river Guadalupe, above the town of Seguin. From what I have already seen and heard I think I may fearlessly assert that when mining investigations shall be carried on, Texas will not be behindhand in showing forth mineral riches.

My next excursion was from Houston eastwards to Swartwout on the Trinity river. About two miles from Houston a creek is passed: in wet weather or after rains it is very deep, and travellers have to swim their horses across. It is said that there are medicinal springs here. From the creek for two or three miles the sides of the road are thickly wooded, principally with pine. The road continues over prairies with an occasional clump of trees to Cypress Bayou, 18 miles. Here there is water all the year. Cypress Bayou is wrongly laid down—the district surveyor tells me that it runs into Spring Creek above its junction with the San Jacinto river.

On the prairie at a farm, to which we came before arriving at

Spring Creek, the well is nearly 40 feet deep. Corn (maize) and vegetables looked well, stock fat, and poultry in great abundance. The prairies about here are somewhat rolling, composed of a dark soil mixed with sand, with here and there a few trees, but all around in the horizon timbered lands are seen upon the creeks and rivers, or, as termed in this country, the "bottoms."

After passing Spring Creek, slightly undulating lands are entered, covered with stately pines; the soil is very sandy, with here and there a settlement of log-houses. Sometimes may be seen in these pine-forests small patches of prairie, looking something like the park-lands in England. The settlements in this section raise corn (maize), stock, vegetables, and a little tobacco.

From the town of Montgomery to the River San Jacinto is 10 miles. No water in Atkins or Sandy Creeks, but a small clear stream in that of San Jacinto. Two miles further is Little San Jacinto River (dry). Four more miles brought us to Lindley's settlement. Here is a short cut to Swartwout, by a path E. of the main road. From Montgomery to this is well wooded, many farming locations, and pretty patches of prairie, and although it is now summer all looks green. There are still pine-lands, rock-sand, and somewhat of a broken character; the gullies or creeks dry. Leaving Lindley's farm, and passing many others, came to Winter's settlement, through a continuous forest, principally of pine and cane-brakes. In travelling in this part of the country the farm-houses are the inns. For supper, bed, and breakfast, with horses' keep, 1 to 1½ dollar. The traveller approaches the farm-house, the dogs commence barking, but at the host's command they retire with smothered growls.

Traveller.—Good day, sir or madam.

Farmer.—Good day (with a slight nod).

Traveller.—Can we rest here?

Farmer.—I *expect* you can.

For the first few minutes there is a general shyness; this soon wears off, and then all is right.

From Winter's settlement, travelling through cane-brakes and thick woods by a mere trail and the "blazes" or notches on trees to show the way, some 10 miles, we came to a rivulet laid down as "Big Creek." It is a fork of the last branch of the San Jacinto.* Ten miles more came to Hubert's settlement, through cane-brakes (these cane-brakes make good cotton lands), woods of live and post oak, black-jack, and magnolia. At Hubert's the country is elevated, and from the heights the landscape is very interesting, looking from N. to S. Eight miles further on Swartwout is reached: this town stands on Trinity River. This part of the

* According to Arrowsmith, an affluent of the Trinity River.—Ed.

country is comparatively well settled with plantations and farms : the produce is generally sent down the river to Galveston ; but, unfortunately, this stream cannot be depended upon all the year round.

I returned to Galveston by nearly the same route I had come ; there had been a few days' heavy rain, filling some of the creeks with water ; thus it was requisite to swim some of them.

Population of Texas.—The population of Texas has been very variously stated, some authorities placing it at “200,000 Anglo-American population,” others as low as 55,000 souls. I offer the following in round numbers :—

White population	60,000
Indians	80,000
Negroes	12,000
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Total population of Texas . .	152,000

Temperatures, Galveston.

	8 A.M.	Noon.	9 P.M.	
July 1.	78	84	80	During morning, slight norther.
22.	84	86	82	
24.	78	83	82	Rain and cloudy.
26.	82	87	83	
29.	83	87	83	
August 1.	82	85	81	Morning, squalls from S. and E.
2.	74	82	78	Strong breezes from N.E.
3.	75	82	77	Ditto.
4.	75			
11.	84	80	82	
12.	85	77	81	Storm from S.S.W. at noon.
18.	79	82	80	
22.	76	82	78	Rains.
23.	78	82	79	Ditto.
24.	78	82	79	Ditto.
25.	80	83	82	Ditto, storm.
26.	76	77	80	Ditto.
27.	80	85	82	In the sun, at noon, 108°.
28.	76	84	82	Heavy rains.
29.	82	85	82	Fine and calm.
30.	82	86	82	Heavy rains and calm.
31.	81	86	84	Calm and sultry.
September 1.	82	86	84	Rain in morning, light S.W. airs.
2.	78			

The thermometer used for these observations was placed in a large drawing-room, with all the windows and doors open, but not affected by radiation from the street.

Exports and Imports at Port of Galveston.

	Dollars.	Cents.
It appears that the exports since the 15th January last to the 31st July amount to	215,861	59
Imports from the 2nd February up to the same time amount to	201,487	91
	<hr/>	
Leaving a difference of	14,403	65

in favour of the exportations, saying nothing of the half month of exports in January. It may also be observed, that a considerable amount of the importations consist in goods, wares, and merchandize brought in by emigrants, which add so much to the wealth of the country.

The exports from Galveston have principally been cotton, buffalo-hides, ox-hides, buffalo-ropes, deer-skins, staves, moss, and sundries.

From Matagorda, about 3000 bales of cotton, and a few hides and skins.

From Red River the quantity of cotton, &c., exported unknown. But the duties on imports over Red River, from the 1st February to the 30th June, is 5984 dollars, 92 cents.

From Velasco and other points I have no data yet.

I give the following with some diffidence, but it is the nearest the truth I am at present able to offer. It is said there are 12,000 negroes in Texas, men, women, and children.

Now last year 50,000 bales of cotton were exported; this, at 7 bales each working hand, will give 7143 negroes employed in field labour; the balance, or 5857 negroes, must be considered as old men, women, and children, domestic servants, workmen, and labourers.

Negroes hired	1,200	
Per annum	100 dollars.	
	<hr/>	
	120,000	„

Negroes hired	1,200	
Keep of negroes per annum	12	„
	<hr/>	
	14,400	„

Negroes	5,493	
Keep	12 dollars.	
	<hr/>	
	70,316	„
Keep	14,400	„
Hire	120,000	„
	<hr/>	
	204,716	„
Interest on negroes at 400 dollars each	285,000	„
Interest on capital, say of 2,000,000		
dollars	200,000	„
	<hr/>	
	689,716	„
	<hr/>	
Bales of cotton	50,000	
Per bale	35	„
	<hr/>	
	250,000	„
	1,500,00	„
	<hr/>	
	1,700,000	„
Hire and keep of negroes, and		
planters' own negroes	204,000	„
	<hr/>	
	1,496,000	„
	689,716	„
	<hr/>	
Remaining to the planter, to pay for		
clothing for his negroes (some few		
have overseers) and the planter's		
own expenses	806,294	„
	<hr/>	

It is supposed that Texas will export some 80,000 bales of cotton next year; but cotton-growing is not so profitable an occupation as formerly, the prices being so low in Europe just now.

At page 392 of Mr. Maillard's work on Texas, he gives a list of assessed taxes. It is true that a bill regulating the taxes did pass the Congress in 1833, but it was found injudicious to force it, and was not carried into effect. The list of taxes found its way into the public prints in America and Europe, and, to say the least of it, was looked upon as a most extraordinary production. There are some thirty items, out of these I will mention those that were and are paid.

	Dollars.	Cents.
License for wholesale mercantile establishments	100	0
———— agents or brokers	100	0
———— tavern-keepers	100	0
———— race-course	100	0

	Dollars.	Cents
Horses, valued at about 30 dollars, then at the rate of $\frac{1}{16}$		
of 1 per cent. per ann. =	0	2
Real estate, dwelling-house and warehouses, carriages,		
&c., rate of $\frac{1}{16}$ of 1 per cent. per a.		
Gold watch, per a.	0	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Silver watch, per a.	0	6 $\frac{1}{4}$

This is about the extent of assessed taxes charged, but I doubt very much if they are all paid.

Since February last the tariff of duties has been increased, but valuations are moderate.

Santa Fé Expedition.—This unfortunate expedition left Austin June 18th, 1841, being composed of a military force, traders, and others, amounting in all to about 300 persons.

Mr. Falconer, who accompanied this expedition, is now on his way home to England, and will doubtless give an account to the Society of his observations. Mr. Kendall, of New Orleans, is now publishing, in the 'Picayune' newspaper of that city, a series of letters on the subject, of which, when completed, I will forward a copy to the Society. I believe that Dr. Branham, Mr. Bonnell, and Mr. Hunt, likewise of the expedition, will shortly publish their account, with a track of their course, &c.

[Mr. Bollaert had inserted at this place an outline of the course pursued by the expedition, which Mr. Falconer's more detailed account has rendered it unnecessary to insert here.]

I am informed that the journey from San Antonio de Bejar, in Texas, to Santa Fé, straight across the country, has been done within 15 days on horseback; but at any time it would not be judicious to perform the journey, on account of the Indians, unless with a strong party.

Earthquake on Galveston Island.—Two slight shocks of an earthquake are said to have been felt at 2 A.M. on the 22nd of August; and at 6 P.M., on the 25th, one slight shock. These shocks were so slight that but few persons noticed them.

Positions from a Survey of the Coast of Texas by Commodore Moore.

	Latitude. ° ' "	Longitude. ° ' "
Mouth of the Rio Grande	25 56 00	97 11 30
Brazos di Santiago	26 06 00	97 12 00
Padre Island trends N. $\frac{1}{4}$ E. due 38 miles, and then N. $\frac{1}{4}$ W. due 53 miles to N. end in Corpus Christi Inlet, which has 4 feet water on its bar	27 36 50	97 16 05
S.W. end Mustang Island { Arunsas, or	27 37 20	97 16 00
N.E. " { Coparo Inlet,	27 49 15	97 03 54
S.W. " St. Joseph's Island { 8 feet water.	27 53 00	97 03 24

		Latitude. ° ' "	Longitude. ° ' "
N.E. " "	{ Espiritu Santo	28 05 00	96 51 44
S.W. " Matagorda Island	{ Inlet, 3 feet water.	28 05 56	96 51 00
N.E. " "	{ or W. point of	28 19 24	96 22 05
Passo Caballo			
Decrow's Point, E. entrance of Passo Caballo,		28 24 00	96 20 00
in 11 feet water			
Mouth of Caney Creek		28 38 00	95 57 00
" San Bernard River		28 51 00	95 49 00
" Brazos River (Velasco).		28 58 00	95 33 00
S.W. end Galveston Island (San Luis).		29 02 00	95 22 00
N.E. " " (Galveston)*		29 18 50	94 48 30
Sabine River, W. side of entrance †		29 39 48	93 52 15

The entire coast from the Brazos di Santiago is clear, and can be approached with safety to within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, except at the entrances, where the breakers always show. From Galveston to the Sabine the coast is clear for 10 miles, and can be approached within two (2) in $3\frac{1}{4}$ fathoms water; from thence to the Sabine the land is very low, and you will not have more than 3 fathoms. 5 miles from land there is a shoal, commencing E.N.E. 22 miles from the buoy on Galveston Island, and running nearly due E. for 30 miles, having on it, in places, 17 feet water, and there are 6 or 7 fathoms in-shore of it.

The buoy on Galveston bar E. by S. from the N.E. end of the island, distant 3 miles. It is on the outer edge of the bar, in 13 feet water, and 100 yards to the E. of S., or between E. and S. you will have 4 fathoms water.

The bar and shoal run from the buoy S.W. by S., to a point from which the first house on the sea-beach bears N.W. by N., and to the N. of the buoy the shore is plain. The best anchorage is to get the beacons on the N.E. end of the island in a line, and run in to within half a mile of the buoy on the bar, where you will find 5 fathoms water.

Off Passo Caballo, the bar is S. by E. from E. of Matagorda Island, distant 3 miles; from thence it runs due W. to the island, and N. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. to the peninsula forming Matagorda Bay. There are two beacons here, but not placed right.

Commodore Moore's chart of the coast, and surveys of Galveston, Matagorda, and other bays, will, I hope, soon be published, and will be forwarded to the Society.

* Mr. Simpton makes the E. end of the island in $29^{\circ} 16' 37''$ lat., $94^{\circ} 49' 41''$ long.

† See Lee and Pillan's Survey. They make the "Mound" in $29^{\circ} 41' 27''$ lat., $93^{\circ} 50' 14''$ long.